

STAFF REPORT

TO: Finance Committee DATE: March 22, 2016

FROM: Scott Burnette, Fire Chief

VIA: Gary Jackson, City Manager

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2015
Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) - Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S)

Summary Statement: The consideration of a resolution authorizing the City of Asheville Fire Department (Fire Department) to apply for a grant in the amount of \$110,000.00 from the Department of Homeland Security to obtain funding for fire prevention and life safety programs, and to accept grant funding if awarded.

Review: The Department of Homeland Security has recently issued guidance for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program specific to Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S). This is a grant opportunity for fire departments to purchase needed equipment to improve fire safety and injuries in the community as well as enhance firefighter safety and service delivery. Towards that end, if the grant request is approved, the Fire Department would purchase materials necessary for a comprehensive home fire safety program, digital fire extinguisher training props and an inflatable fire safety house. The Fire Department is not alone in this effort, Fire is Everyone's Fight™ is a national effort led by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) to lower the number of home fires and home fire injuries in America. Partnering with USFA adds resources and support to programs to make sure the Fire Department is successful by speaking out with a unified message of fire prevention and safety to the public. The goal is to change how people think about fire and fire prevention by getting into the community to address the broadest possible audience. All eligible applicants seeking a FP&S Grant to carry out an activity shall agree to make available non-federal funds to carry out such activity in an amount equal to and not less than five (5) percent of the grant awarded, or \$5,500.00.

Staff recommends participation in the AFG Program for the following reasons:

- Assist in decreasing the risk of death in home fires and provide greater safety for firefighters.
- If awarded, the City would be able to utilize grant funds for the purchase of equipment.
- If awarded, the City would be able to directly improve fire safety in the City of Asheville.

This action aligns with the 2036 City Council Vision regarding a Smart City.

Pros:

- Improved safety and efficiency of firefighters when responding to dangerous environments.
- Decrease the occupant alerting and fire department response times for fires and carbon monoxide incidents in 400 homes by installation of smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, street address identification and stove top fire extinguishing agent.
- Provide fire extinguisher classes to a greater number citizens as well as businesses in our community.
- Enhance the fire safety of our high risk communities which include our children under 6 years of age, persons with disabilities, as well as our older citizens.

Cons:

- 5% share amount of the total purchase cost required \$5,500

Fiscal Impact: This grant would increase the Fire Department's budget request as these funds are not already programmed into the budget. It will allow a greater amount of funding for prevention and life safety initiatives.

Recommendation: City staff recommends that City Council authorize the fire department to apply for a grant in the amount of \$110,000 from FEMA to obtain funding for equipment and supplies necessary for a comprehensive home fire safety program, fire extinguisher training props, an inflatable fire safety house and to accept the grant funding if awarded.

Attachment
(1) Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR \$110,000 TO OBTAIN FUNDING FOR EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE HOME FIRE SAFETY PROGRAM, FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING PROPS, AND AN INFLATABLE FIRE SAFETY HOUSE, AND TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING IF AWARDED

WHEREAS, the City has authority pursuant to N.C.G.S. §160A-17.1 to apply for and receive grants from the State and Federal government, and

WHEREAS, the US Department of Homeland Security is taking applications for the Fiscal Year 2015 AFG grant program for the purpose of providing equipment and tools for firefighters, and

WHEREAS, the Asheville Fire Department wishes to apply for a grant in the amount of \$110,000 to obtain funding for equipment and supplies necessary for a comprehensive home fire safety program, fire extinguisher training props, and an inflatable fire safety house.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The fire department is hereby authorized to apply for the Fiscal Year 2015 AFG grant with the US Department of Homeland Security, for a grant in the amount of \$110,000 to obtain funding for equipment and supplies necessary for a comprehensive home fire safety program, fire extinguisher training props, and an inflatable fire safety house, and to accept grant funding if awarded.

Read, approved and adopted this _____ day of _____, 2016

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved as to form:

City Attorney